



Missouri
Department of
Natural Resources

RECREATIONAL USE ATTAINABILITY ANALYSES
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comment Period
May 21, 2008 – August 31, 2008

Little Piney Creek
WBID #1521

Class P
Phelps County

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Protection Program
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
800-361-4827 / 573-751-1300



"Paul Strong"
<pstrong@embarqmail.com>

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To john.hoke@dnr.mo.gov

cc "Steve Sowers" <sesowers@rollanet.org>

bcc

Subject Clean Water Act Exemption for Little Beaver Creek

While we are upstream landowners in the Little Beaver Creek watershed with two beautiful spring-fed creeks which empty into it, we are also downstream users in Newburg on the Little Piney River where we and our children swim and fish weekly in the summer. We are concerned about the exemption from CWA standards for any business or government entity which discharges water into watercourses leading into the Little Piney River.

It seems to us that Missouri should be prudent and cautious in its approach to release of potentially harmful substances and organisms into its waters. If conditions ever worsened to the point at which there were human health concerns for swimming or fishing, it would be a great loss and far more expensive to clean up than the current cost to prevent it.

We don't understand what the benefit to the public would be under this proposed exemption. How is the State taking action to protect its citizens through this action? It seems to us there is probably enough bacteria entering Little Beaver Creek from land uses in upper reaches of the watershed.

We have lived in areas where public waters are closed in the summer due to high bacteria counts and smell so bad that they are not enjoyable to visit. We moved to rural Missouri in part to enjoy the abundant and clean creeks and rivers here.

Please consider this comment as an urging for caution and for clean water for the generations to come. It would be a terrible shame to find any parts of a creek or river unusable in hot summer months for a cool dip, fishing, or catching crawdads when a reasonable alternative could be taken to prevent it.

Waters entering the tributary entering Little Beaver Creek should not be exempt from Clean Water Act standards in an effort to preserve it and the downstream waters for current and future users.

Paul and Donna Strong
Gaddy Road (14450 CR 8100)
Rolla